Chapter 5: The Path of Doubt

IS THE PAPER REALLY REAL THIS TIME?
DID YOU REALLY NOT WRITE IT YOURSELF AND PUT IT INTO YOUR BAG?
I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T DO IT...
KYOU-SENPAI, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR.
UWAH
EVERYBODY'S SCARED AT THE MOMENT, SO LET'S GET ALONG, OKAY?
ASAGI-SENPAI WOULDN'T MAKE ALL THAT UP AND ACT IT OUT HERSELF.

I'M SORRY
IT'S IT'S OKAY
SHOULD I... APOLOGIZE?
YE- YES
...I'M GOING TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S ROOM IN ADVANCE...
A...
ASAGI-SENPAI... IT WOULD BE BAD IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU, PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

SENPAI...

SFX: chatter chatter
OH? THERE ARE STUDENTS IN SUCH A PLACE.
MR DETECTIVE.
THIS IS TROUBLESOME— THE TEACHERS TOLD US THAT THE STUDENTS WERE STAYING HOME.
OH? WE MET YESTERDAY, RIGHT?

T/N. The detective was about to call Shishigami by his nickname Shinigami (death god)

EH. . EH. .
COME WITH ME TO THE STAFF ROOM, I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STORY
EH, THAT'S .
IS THAT SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO YOU BEING HERE?
MOREOVER THE PLACE HE'S BEING FILMED IS JUST NEARBY

STAFF ROOM
COME ON, COME ON GO INSIDE.
SH SH SH, THAT PHRASE IS SO TEACHER LIKE, IT'S GREAT.
WHY THE STAFF ROOM?
THERE'S NO OTHER ROOM LIKE THIS WITH WORKING AIR CONDITIONING
ぎっちり
UWAH, IT'S FULL OF POLICEMEN!

SFX crowdy

WHY ARE YOU GUYS IN SCHOOL?
MATSUKI -SAN.
HANAWA, DID YOU HEAR YET? WE FOUND OUT THE VICTIM'S IDENTITY
EH
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF GATHERING INFORMATION, RIGHT? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I JUST STOPPED BY.
IS THAT TRUE?!
SH SH

.....
WE CAN'T JUST TELL YOU THAT SO EASILY
PLEASE TELL US
WAS IT ONE OF OUR STUDENTS?
THE VICTIM WAS A 23-YEAR-OLD OFFICE LADY WHO LIVED NEAR THE SCHOOL
MATSUKI-SAN, IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

IF IT'S JUST THAT, IT WOULDN'T MIND, RIGHT?
THERE'S A PUBLIC POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY, SO THEY WOULD FIND OUT ANYWAYS. AND BESIDES, AS WITNESSES, I'M SURE THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT IT
THE VICTIM'S NAME WAS MINA KIHARA. SHE WORKED AT A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY
SHE LIVED ALONE IN CHIBA TOKYO.
IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT SHE LEFT WORK FIVE DAYS AGO, BUT THERE'S NO TRACE OF HER AFTER THAT.
WHEN SHE DIDN'T COME TO WORK THE NEXT MORNING HER BOSS TRIED TO CALL HER BUT WASN'T ABLE TO CONTACT HER
THE COMPANY CONTACTED HER HOME AND WAS ABLE TO CONTACT THE LANDLADY

THE APARTMENT WAS LOCKED AND NOBODY WAS HOME.
SHE ISN'T SUBSCRIBED TO ANY NEWSPAPERS, SO IT'S CURRENTLY UNKNOWN SINCE WHEN SHE WASN'T HOME
YESTERDAY A POLICE SEARCH FOR HER WAS REQUESTED
BUT WE'LL PROBABLY KNOW FROM THE USE OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY TODAY OR TOMORROW.
—SO IT'S SOMEONE WITH NO CONNECTION TO THE SCHOOL WHAT SO EVER?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT.
—THANK GOD.
SENPAI.

THE PAPER ASAGI GOT WAS PROBABLY A PRANK AFTER ALL
YEAH, IT'S NO CURSE..
A CURSE?
AH, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE ONE YOU MADE A FUSS ABOUT WHEN YOU WENT HOME YESTERDAY?
PU PU FU
YOU'RE A FOOL FOR BELIEVING IN THAT SORT OF THING~
I WONDER IF IT'S A PRANK FROM SOMEONE IN THE KENDO CLUB...
ERM... IS THE LEGALLY ORDERED AUTOPSY ALREADY...?
YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL IT AN AUTOPSY WITH A BODY CHOPPED INTO PIECES LIKE THAT...
HANAWA!

EH?
ABOUT THE DETAILS OF AN INVESTIGATION TO SUCH A CASE, I MEAN
YES, SINCE YOU LEARN FROM IT WHEN THE VICTIM WAS MURDERED...
YOU'RE WELL INFORMED
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THAT, TOO? SHISHIGAMI-KUN
NO, THAT'S... I
WE JUST GOT THE RESULTS OF THE AUTOPSY.
THE ESTIMATED TIME OF HER DEATH IS THREE DAYS AGO AT 10PM
THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH WAS SUFFOCATION

WE'RE ASSUMING THAT AFTER SHE WAS STRANGLED TO DEATH, SHE WAS CUT INTO PIECES BY A EDGED OBJECT
...THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY FOR NOW
THREE DAYS AGO HM...
OOH— IT'S A FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
WHY ARE THERE STUDENTS IN SUCH A PLACE?
IT'S.. IT'S OVER HERE
IS THERE A REFRIGERA-TOR SOME-WHERE?
THAT REMINDS ME

I WAS PLANNING ON CALLING YOU OVER TO THE POLICE STATION, BUT SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE,
MAY I ASK YOU WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING THREE DAYS AGO?
IT'S ABOUT THE ALIBI... RIGHT?
WELL THEN THIS WAY...
OKAY...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT I AM HELPING OUT...

キーンコーン
SFX: ding dong
I'M TIRED...
DOES THE POLICE NOT GIVE YOU ANY SALARY FOR THE WORK YOU DO?
.....
VARIOUS THINGS
KOU-CHAN, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH THE DETECTIVE ALL THIS TIME?

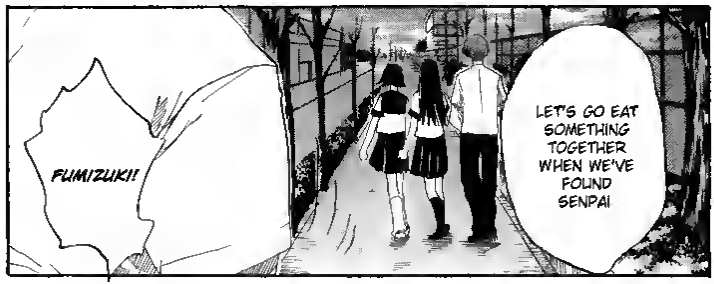
AH DAMMIT
I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU TWO AS WELL LATER ON, IS THAT OKAY?
EH
I FORGOT
YE YES
STUDENT COUNCIL'S ROOM
SHE'S NOT HERE...

WHAT SHOULD I DO, ASAGI DIDN'T COME...
LET'S GO BACK TO THE JANITOR'S ROOM AND LOOK THERE.
LET'S SEARCH OUTSIDE.
MAYBE SHE'S ON THE ROOFTOP.
NOBODY'S THERE ..
.....

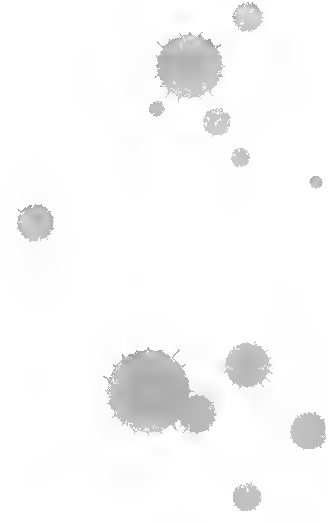
WHAT ABOUT THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING?
IT'S FULL OF POLICEMEN THERE AND YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE, SO I DOUBT SHE'S THERE
A GIRL WITH BRAIDS?
I DON'T KNOW.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER
I HAVE NO IDEA...
.....
MAYBE SHE WENT BACK HOME...

KYOU-SENPAI, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I ASKED FOR HER CONTACT INFO, I'M GOING TO TRY CALLING HER
HOW IS IT?
IT'S NO USE, SHE'S NOT PICKING UP...
.....

I'M SURE ASAGI-SENPAI IS AT HOME.
AND THE DETECTIVE TOLD US HE'S CALL US IF HE FINDS HER..


LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING TOGETHER WHEN WE'VE FOUND SENPAI
FUMIZUKI!

AND IT'S RIGHT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY AFTER ALL. WASN'T IT HARD FOR YOU?
I HAD TO CONTACT STUDENTS ALL THE TIME.
HM?
WHY DID YOU GUYS COME TO SCHOOL?
NAKA-YAMA-SENSEI.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE LOOKING LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY.
SENSEI. .



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